

REMARKS

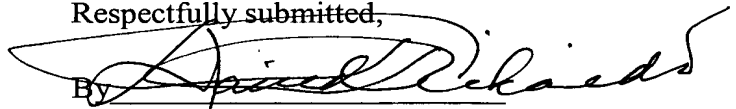
This Preliminary Amendment has been presented prior to the initial examination of the above-identified patent application to address minor matters of form and syntax.

No new matter has been added.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response.

Dated: September 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David T. Nikaido", is written over a horizontal line.

By David T. Nikaido

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